

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent claims. By this amendment, claim 1 is amended and new claim 4 is added. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully solicited.

I. THE CLAIMS DEFINE PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Office Action rejects: (1) claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,731,920 to Katsuragawa (hereafter Katsuragawa); (2) claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable Katsuragawa; and (3) claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Katsuragawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,859,733 to Miyano. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Katsuragawa, either alone or in combination with Miyano, fails to teach or suggest each and every feature as set forth in the claimed invention.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a lens drive device that is detachably mounted to a lens device body. The detachable lens drive device includes a motor and a storage device which stores information prescribing a braking characteristic of a moving object driven by the motor. An input device receives a signal for changing the braking characteristics. A braking characteristic setting device changes the settings of the braking characteristic according to the signal received from the input device.

An aspect of the present invention is that a braking characteristic of the moving object driven by the lens drive device is changeable within the servo module itself. The lens drive

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device, i.e., servo module 12, is separable from the lens device 10.

Applicant respectfully submits that both Katsuragawa and Miyano fail to teach or suggest this feature. For example, Katsuragawa fails to teach or suggest a lens drive device that is separable from the lens device itself. Katsuragawa merely discloses a converting adapter for interchangeably mounting an entire lens assembly 2 to an image processor 3. Katsuragawa fails to teach or suggest such lens assemblies having separable drive portions, as set forth in the claimed invention. In addition, the data stored in memory 14 of Katsuragawa is merely position data and speed data. (see Katsuragawa, Fig. 10). Applicant respectfully submits that this position and speed data of Katsuragawa is different from the claimed braking characteristic of the present invention. The braking characteristic of the present invention at least represents speed-reduction control in order to realize quick and smooth reduction so as to prevent mechanical damage.

Moreover, Katsuragawa merely discloses a characteristic of a servo control in Fig. 11, yet Katsuragawa fails to teach or suggest any changing of a pattern of the braking characteristic, as set forth in the claimed invention.

According to MPEP §2131, "a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. Of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ...claims." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claims, but this is not an *ipsissimis*

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verbis test, i.e., identity of terminology is not required. In *re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

Applicant respectfully submits that the Office Action has failed to establish the required *prima facie* case of anticipation because the cited reference, Katsuragawa, fails to teach or suggest each and every feature as set forth in the claimed invention.

Furthermore, applicant respectfully submits that Miyano fails to make up for the deficiencies found in Katsuragawa.

As such, applicant respectfully submits that not only does the references fail to teach or suggest each and every feature as set forth in the claimed invention, but that one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine/modify the teachings of Katsuragawa with Miyano because there is no teaching or suggestion in any of the references regarding how or why one would modify such systems to arrive at the claimed invention.

As such, claim 1 fails to be anticipated by or obvious over Katsuragawa. Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 4 are allowable over Katsuragawa, either alone or in combination with Miyano, for at least the reasons noted above.

As for each of the dependent claims not particularly discussed above, these claims are also allowable for at least the reasons set forth above regarding their corresponding independent claims, and/or for the further features claimed therein.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a) is respectfully solicited.

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II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Applicant respectfully petitions under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) and §1.17 for a one(1)-month extension of time in which to respond to the Examiner's Office Action. The appropriate Extension of Time Fee is attached hereto.

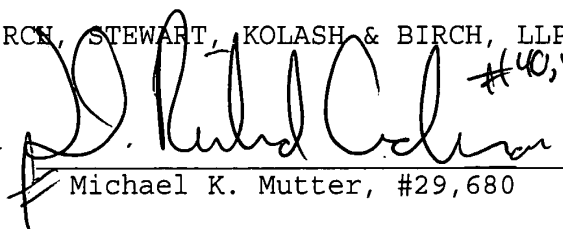
Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Carolyn T. Baumgardner (Reg. No. 41,345) at (703) 205-8000 to schedule a Personal Interview.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment from or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. §1.17; particularly, the extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A lens drive device to be detachably mounted to a lens device body, the detachable lens drive device comprising:

a motor;

a storage device which stores information prescribing a braking characteristic of a moving object driven by the [lens drive device] motor;

an input device which inputs a signal for changing the braking characteristics; and

a braking characteristic setting device which changes settings of the braking characteristic according to the signal received from the input device.

New claim 4 is added.